

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Extension of Time

A request for a one month extension of the period for response to the office action mailed on June 7, 2007 is enclosed. Since October 7, 2007 is a Sunday, and Monday, October 8, 2007 is a federal holiday (Columbus Day), the extended period for response expires on October 9, 2007.

Claim Status

Claims 1-39 were presented. Claims 1-2, 4-14, 16, 20 and 32-39 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 3, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25 and 29-31 are amended. New claims 40-44 are added. Claims 3, 15, 17-19, 21-31 and 40-44 are now pending.

Non-Elected Species

Claims 4-14, 16, 20 and 36-39, which are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected species, are canceled without prejudice. In this regard, applicant notes that a divisional application is being filed to the subject matter of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 18, which depend from claim 1 via intervening claim 2, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 18 is rewritten in independent form including all limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2, which are now incorporated in claim 18, are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 3, 15 and 17 are amended to depend from claim 18. Claim 19 depends from claim 18. Claims 21 and 22 are amended to depend from claim 18. Claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 22. Claim 25 is amended to depend from claim 18. Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25. Claims 29-31 are amended to depend from claim 18.

Accordingly, claims 3, 15, 17-19 and 21-31 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 15, 17 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Loui (US 6,937,273). In response, claims 1 and 2, which are now incorporated into allowable claim 18, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 15 and 17 are amended to depend from allowable claim 18. Claim 32 is canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 21, 29 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Loui in view of Saito (US 2003/0095191). Claims 22-28 and 30-35 are rejected as obvious over Loui in view of Monti (US 6,680,748). In response, claims 21-31 depend or are amended to depend from allowable claim 18. Claims 33-35 are canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

New Claims 40-44

New claims 40-44 are added. New claims 40-42 depend from allowable claim 18 and are thus allowable for the same reasons as claim 18. New independent claims 43 and 44 further define the subject matter regarded as the invention and recite unique features that are not shown or suggested by any of the art of record.


Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration of this reply. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 9, 2007

By: _____


Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: 310-785-4600
Fax: 310-785-4601